

Application No. 10/604,993  
Technology Center 3764  
Amendment dated December 15, 2006  
Reply to Office Action dated August 15, 2006

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**REMARKS**

In the Office Action, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-20 of the above-identified US Patent Application, with the result that claims 1, 2, and 4-8 were rejected, claims 11-20 were allowed, and claims 3, 9, and 10 (which depend from claim 1) were deemed to recite allowable subject matter. In response:

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of its dependent claim 9, pursuant to the Examiner's conclusion that claim 9 recites allowable subject matter. As such, independent claim 1 and claims depending therefrom are believed to be allowable over the prior art of record.

Claim 1 has been further amended to recite that the elastic cables generate tensile forces between the pelvic girdle and the thigh cuff. This amendment provides antecedent basis for "the tensile forces" recited in claim 6, and finds support at paragraphs [0009], [0013], and elsewhere.

Dependent claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of its base claim 1 and intervening claim 2, pursuant to the Examiner's conclusion that claim 3 recites allowable subject matter. As such, claim 3 is believed to be allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of its limitations being incorporated into claim 1, claim 9 has been amended to recite a limitation that finds support at paragraph [0015] (first, fifth, and sixth sentences) and Figures 1 through 3.


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In view of the limitations of its parent claim 9 being incorporated into claim 1, claim 10 has been amended to depend directly from claim 1.

Applicant believes that the above amendments do not present new matter, and that the amendments comply with the Examiner's determination that dependent claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims under 35 USC §102, and that his patent application be given favorable reconsideration.

Should the Examiner have any questions with respect to any matter now of record, Applicant's representative may be reached at (219) 462-4999.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Petition for Extension of Time (two copies)